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COVERNMENT REORGANIZES INTELLIGENCE CENTER

Leadership Named

PY282103 Buenos Aires LA RAZON in Spanish 28 Dec 86 p 9

[By Jose Antonio Diaz]

[Text] The government has decided to implement a permanent executive board as the coordinating body of the National Intelligence Center [CNI], which was created in 1972 during the administration of General Alejandro Agustin Lanusse but was virtually inactive during the Justicialist administration from 1973 to 1976. Decree No 1959, which was signed by President Raul Alfonsin in late November 1986, does not establish a new intelligence center but rather seeks to revitalize an inactive organization. Up to now each military, police, prefecture, or border police intelligence center has been operating on its own without coordination. In the opinion of the official sources questioned yesterday by LA RAZON, the decree entails "an important step in the civilian control over the military intelligence services."

Facundo Suarez has been appointed head of the CNI. Suarez will be supported by Ricardo Tomas Natale, who served as a UCR [Radical Civic Union] deputy from 1973 to 1976. Natale is a young man with a doctorate in economics who has long been associated with the classical UCR sector represented by Fernando de la Rua. On the same level with Natale will be Brigadier Generals Eduardo O'Higgins (of the Joint Staff) and Francisco Gassino (of the Army), Rear Admiral Argimiro Fernandes (of the Navy), who will soon be promoted to vice admiral, and Brigadier General Jorge Ruiz (of the Air Force), all of whom are members of the II Department of Intelligence. Another important point of the government decree involves the appointment as permanent members of the Executive Board of Under Secretaries of State Raul Alconada Sempe (ot the Foreign Ministry), Jorge Gonzalez Loncieme (of the Defense Ministry), and Rodolfo Mugnolo (of the Interior Ministry); they are the second-in-command to Jorge Sabato, Alfredo Mosso, and Facundo Suarez Lastra, respectively. Another important name in the new organization chart is that of Chief Federal Security Inspector General Roberto Scoppa.

The CNI will be involved in "strategic intelligence," and not "domestic security." An official source told LA RAZON that the intention is to ensure and expedite "the contacts and coordination among the intelligence activities being conducted by each branch of the Armed Forces." In order to facilitate these mechanisms of contact, the three branches of the Armed Forces have appointed a lieutenant colonel, a captain, and an Air Force lieutenant colonel, who are closely cooperating with Facundo Suarez to outline a consistent policy.

The policy supported by Suarez through patient and delicate efforts since he took over the SIDE [Secretariate for State Intelligence] head in May 1986 is that "the quality of talks with the military depends on resolving military problems." Suarez' efforts have obviously contributed to expediting talks among the intelligence sectors of the three branches of the Armed Forces, although the mutual reservations, even after the signing of the decree, cannot be forgotten.

From May to November 1986, the SIDE head met nearly every week with officers from the three branches of the Armed Forces "to calm misgivings and prejudices," according to sources close to Suarez.

Issues discussed during these talks included the trials of military men for human rights violations, the low budget of the Armed Forces, and the hard debate on the operational military capability and the acquisition of arms and technology by the Armed Forces. According to sources linked to the CNI, these are the "problems" whose solution can improve relations between the civilian government and the military institutions. The same sources commented that "even with the reservations and defective coordination, the role played by Facundo Suarez has been and will continue to be essential to progress in the mutual understanding between civilians and soldiers. This does not mean that the military intelligence services have already accepted the democratic government's control, but we are on the right track."

New Chief Views Objectives

PY292007 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1315 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Dec (TELAM) -- Facundo Suarez, head of the Secretariat for State Intelligence (SIDE), said the National Intelligence Center (CNI), which was created by the executive branch, will coordinate all the intelligence services performed by the security and Armed Forces, thereby making them more efficient and unifying the collection of intelligence. He added that at this time, national strategic intelligence in the economic, political or social areas is gathered at the president's request, but that it no longer has a clandestine, political nature. It has been transformed into an element of better government.

As an example, Suarez cited the SIDE studies on economic developments, the interpretation of international economic events, political events, and even events in neighboring or other countries. The government accepts or rejects those studies when making decisions on international policy, he said. The intelligence department delivers the information and the executive branch, that is, the president, makes the decision using these elements if he deems them to be appropriate, he said.

He added that in time the CNI and the other integrated services will have a joint computer center. Asked about the purging of the files of those services, he said that that stage has definitely been overcome because there is now a high degree of professionalism. He said that records are now being cleaned up by adding explanations to the files, and stressed that what they have not done is to commit the irresponsible act of burning them. They belong to the nation, and they just need to be organized to avoid mistakes, he added.

Regarding legislative control over the activities of the SIDE, he concluded by saying that no organizations are excluded from Congress' scrutiny, even if they are secret.

FURTHER REACTION TO FULL STOP LEGISLATION

Rights Assembly Complains

PY292212 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 28 Dec 86 p 15

[Text] (DYN) -- The Permanent Assembly on Human Rights (APDH) said yesterday the full stop bill recently passed by Congress and signed into law by President Raul Alfonsin was the starting point of an offensive by the military and far right elements aimed at an amnesty for human rights violators, who had already been condemned.

The APDH said in a statement that the law setting a deadline for the filing of charges of human rights violations during the former military regime "lacked a general consensus and has already sparked confrontations which only serve to cause splits in the democratic forces with the dangers that this implies."

The statement said the text of the law and the reasons for it as stated in parliamentary debate were "transparent messages to the courts for trials in process to continue slowly and those which have not been initiated to continue as such until the passing of time favours the accused as happened in the case of (Navy Lieutenant Alfredo) Astiz."

The APDH claimed the law "affects the very foundation of a state of law and the equality of all before the law and its influence on our society will be felt in the future when the unpunished of today become the repressors of tomorrow."

The organization said it regretted the haste with which the government bill was passed "reflecting the zeal of the pressures and commitments alien to the democratic commitment," and called on the government to instruct prosecutors to push pending cases "to avoid finding ourselves faced with an amnesty in disguise."

The second vice president of the Christian Democratic party, Alberto Aramouni, also came out against the law and accused Alfonsin's government of bowing to military pressure and "tarnishing the dignity of the institutions."

Aramouni, a member of the Lower House of the Buenos Aires province Congress, said the full stop law "set a dangerous precedent, that of paying greater attention to the pressures of military groups than to the legitimate claims of the Argentine people."

LA PRENSA Favors Amnesty

PY142340 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 6 Dec 86 pp 1, 4

[By J. Iglesias Rouco]

[Excerpt] We praised, even before December 1983, the long list of intentions, or alleged intentions, which Mr Alfonsin brought to power with him, because the items on that list sought to reestablish the principles of law in a country which had been submitted to all types of outrages for decades, mostly during the so-called "process." During this period, the regime destroyed the legal foundation of the state through the aberrant methods it used to fight subversion, and feudalized its administration, including that of the Armed Forces.

Naturally, after the Malvinas war, we proposed a truce, under the condition that the military chiefs expressly recognize the crimes which they had committed and assume responsibility for them. If they had done this, a very important step toward reestablishing the law would have been taken. What happened, however, was very much the opposite: The last leaders of the "process" granted themselves amnesty and insisted on defending the methods they had employed. Therefore, Mr Alfonsin's decision to submit the leaders of the "process" to trial seemed highly commendable and it would have been if it had been carried out expediently. According to what is required by the military justice codes, the trials should also set examples and help restore the image of the Armed Forces.

Above all, the trials should put an end to the years of ignominy, terror, and resentfulness that oppressed the Argentine conscience. They should contribute to national reconciliation, or help to retrieve the nation from ruins. We remember very well that at that time Mr Borras, Alfonsin's close friend and probably "alter ego,"

reassured us that the trials would be conducted expediently. He even indicated that the "review" would last only a few weeks or, at most, a few months. "This is no time for us to look back for too long," he said.

A short while later, however, when the "revision" system was approved at the suggestion of the executive branch, we realized that that permanently distorted, unusual mixture of laws and procedures and the overall campaign which the state's "mass media" [two preceding words in English] launched against the military institutions, would inevitably become a tool to destroy institutions and to create systematic confusion among the public. We also realized that the "revision" system would keep the country in a "sine die" [indefinite] state of anxiety, deepening even further the gap between the political and military powers, thus deteriorating the stability of the government and democracy itself. Therefore, during the last 3 years, we have continued to voice our criticism and warnings. These warnings are similar to those the leaders of Alfonsin's beloved European social democracy have repeatedly expressed to the Casa Rosada. In the end, all we have done is add opportunism and scandal to tragedies such as the missing persons. These trials should have made the majority of Argentines, who are responsible for the abuses, think.

We cannot be accused of having stoked the revisionist fire, which is apparently being used by many to expiate their guilt, or to conduct political and geopolitical maneuvers. For this reason we, who have not favored either faction, have an obligation and a greater moral right to reject the full stop bill. This cannot be said of those who have hidden behind barricades. We feel an obligation to reject this bill, because it is overtly illegal, and lacks a historical and ethical basis. We also feel that we must reject it, because this bill has little or no chance of putting any full stop to the senseless show, which we have been watching.

It is evident that Alfonsin is coming close to new presidential elections, and that many of his followers are becoming morally exhausted and generally tired of this comedy and the unpredictable moods of the Casa Rosada which focus on the Armed Forces, the labor unions, and the so-called "captains of industry." It is also evident that the economic crisis will soon make it necessary for the Armed Forces to help keep order. For this reason, it is advisable for the government to placate the Armed Forces and to seek their favor.

It is a little too much, however, to see the Casa Rosada once again transfer to Congress and the courts the burden of make-believe political "solutions" that violate the most basic principles of law, the same way the revionist "solution" broke the law in 1983. It is a little too much to see the Casa Rosada try again to adopt this attitude, because when the government proposed the full stop bill it already -- I insist that the government already -- knew, and perhaps had already accepted the fact that this new solution could end as many others have ended: accomplishing absolutely nothing. However, even if it ends in nothing, it will have increased the gap between the judicial and the executive branches, and the frivolity currently reigning in Congress (probably a consequence of the Caesar-like attitudes being adopted by the executive branch).

It is hard for us to make these remarks, because we do not think that total forgetfulness is a better solution. At the present moment, however, when the "revision" of the "dirty war" has reached a blind alley, we see no other solution bu amnesty. By proposing amnesty, the Casa Rosada would assume its historical responsibilities, and would, one way or the other, be correcting its mistakes while safegurding the other state institutions, particularly the courts, without which no trustworthy state can exist. [passage omitted]

GOVERNMENT, STRIKING MINEWORKERS BEGIN TALKS

PY280016 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2139 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] La Paz, 27 Dec (EFE) -- Talks between the government and dismissed Bolivian mineworkers who have been on hunger strike since 22 December began today in La Paz, and the two sectors hope that these talks will lead to a solution to the conflict.

According to leaders of the Trade Union Federation of Bolivian Mineworkers [FSTMB], these talks were arranged through the mediation of La Paz Auxiliary Bishop Msgr Alejandro Mestre, who made the contacts at the request of the dismissed mineworkers.

Planning Minister Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada is participating in the talks on behalf of the government, while several FSTMB leaders and mineworkers leaders are representing the strikers.

The dismissed miners want the government to provide them with new employment opportunities, better severance pay, payment of transportation costs, payment of their debts for the purchase of food from the State Mining Corporation of Bolivia [Comibol], and other benefits.

The FSTMB has asked for international solidarity with the 2,500 dismissed mineworkers who are on hunger strike. In this regard, the FSTMB sent a communique to the International Labor Organization, the World Trade Union Federation, the World Labor Confederation, the Human Rights Organization, and other organizations.

In the document, the FSTMB states that the Bolivian Government "after laying off thousands of mineworkers from Comibol, and paralyzing productive activities in the state mines, refuses to meet the social needs of the mineworkers, who demand the fulfillment of the commitments they have assumed." The FSTMB states, therefore, that because the government did not respond, the dismissed workers, and their wives and children, began a hunger strike.

The communique concludes by saying that this situation is the result of the "antiworkers policy" that is in effect in the country, and that for this reason the FSTMB is requesting international solidarity so that the La Paz government will pay attention to the problems of the dismissed mineworkers.

HUANCHACA CASE SUSPECT ESCAPES FROM CLINIC

PY240223 Paris AFP in Spanish 2349 GMT 23 Dec 86

[Excerpts] La Paz, 23 Dec (AFP) -- It was officially reported here today that drug trafficker Humberto Gil Suarez escaped yesterday from a clinic in Santa Cruz (1,000 km east of this capital), provoking the resignation of the district prosecutor, the suspension of police Narcotics Division Chief Colonel Milton Vaca, and the arrest of 30 policemen.

Interior Ministry authorities noted that Gil Suarez is the principal suspect in the case of the triple murder and discovery of a cocaine factory on a farm in Huanchaca (on the border with Brazil) on 5 September. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Fernando Barthelemy reported that Judge Edgar Pena Rueda had been pressured by drug traffickers to hand down a decision favoring Gil Suarez. This information was released on 20 and 21 December and it is said that the judge was paid $200,000.

Court Approves Habeas Corpus

PY260109 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0035 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Santa Cruz, 25 Dec (EFE) -- The district court of this city, east of La Paz, yesterday ruled in favor of the writ of habeas corpus submitted on behalf of Humberto Gil Suarez. Gil Suarez is accused of being responsible for the Huanchaca murders and the killing of Deputy Edmundo Salazar.

Thus, the drug trafficker obtained his freedom, and at the same time he "legalized" the escape he staged on 22 December from a local clinic where he was being treated for heart problems. [passage omitted]

PAZ DESIGNATES NEW INDUSTRY, COMMERCE MINISTER

PY242034 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Fernando Moscoso has been designated new industry, commerce, and tourism minister. Moscoso replaces Roberto Gisbert who resigned from the post.

According to a decree released today from Government House, the president of the Republic has chosen Fernando Moscoso as the new member of his cabinet.

Moscoso is currently under secretary of revenues in the Finance Ministry. According to the government decree, he will assume his new post on 26 December at Government Palace. The resolution of the decree states:

Article 1. Fernando Moscoso is hereby designated new industry, commerce, and tourism minister.

Article 2. the installation ceremony will be held at Government Palace on 26 December, at 0930. At this time, the president of the Republic will not make any other changes in his cabinet.

COURTS TO EXTRADITE NOBISTOV CREW TO ARGENTINA

PY272222 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2258 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Dec (DYN) -- It has been learned in diplomatic circles that Brazilian judicial officials have granted the extradition to Argentina of eight U.S. citizens involved in arms smuggling.

The eight U.S. citizens arrested by Brazilian officials were crew members of the Panamanian vessel Nobistor, which was commanded by an Argentine. The vessel was captured last March in Brazilian waters on its way to Ghana with an arms shipment that had been loaded in Argentina.

According to Brazilian press reports, four of the U.S. citizens escaped from jail a few days ago. Three of them are already in the United States.

A substitute judge is replacing Judge Azquez Acuna, head of the Sixth Criminal and Economic Court, who is vacationing in Brazil. The substitute judge's attitude regarding the three refugees who are already in the United States is not known.

It is presumed that under the extradition treaty for common crimes between Argentina and the United States, Argentina will ask for the extradition of the three U.S. citizens.

If this is the case, the court will have to channel its extradition request through the Argentine Foreign Ministry.

LOCAL GOODS FACE INCREASED U.S. DUTIES

PY242056 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1500 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Several Brazilian-made products have become more expensive in the United States as a consequence of President Ronald Reagan's decision to reduce the number of goods on the preferential treatment list, that is, goods that are exempted from taxation.

This measure should be implemented next week and is designed to force President Sarney's government to open up the Brazilian market to U.S. exports and investments. U.S. legislators maintain that Brazil is one of the ountries with the greatest number of restrictions on the entry of foreign products. However it is among the countries that benefit most from the tax exemption system created in 1975 to encourage exports by developing countries to the U.S. market.

Chemicals and leather goods, as well as spare parts for piston engines, are some of the products on which there will be a 6 to 7-percent tax.

Since 1975, Brazilian exports totaling $1.3 billion have benefited from the preferential treatment system, but this amount will be reduced substantially with the new U.S. measure.

The surplus of the Brazilian trade balance that amounted to $131 million in November should increase. The Finance Ministry estimates that this surplus will amount to around $700 million.

INTEREST POSTPONED ON JAN-MARCH DEBT PAYMENTS

PY271552 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2155 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Antonio de Padua Seixas. international affairs director of the Central Bank, has just reached an agreement with creditor banks in New York. Under the agreement, Brazil gets a 3-month extension on the temporary agreement that was scheduled to expire on 31 December. The new agreement establishes that Brazil will continue to pay the debt in January, February, and March in the same way it has been paying in 1986, but with no interest. The interest rates for these 3 months will be fixed later when Brazil renegotiates the main part of its debt.

GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY PRESSURES BANKS ON DEBT

PY291526 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1422 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Brasilia, 26 Dec (EFE) -- The newspaper CORREIO BRASILIENSE reported today that Brazil has decided to cancel the licenses of local branches of international banks which refuse to renegotiate the debt that Brazil has with them.

The U.S. Mellon Bank, a small bank, is the first foreign bank to suffer from this measure. It has been ordered to close its two offices in Brazil.

The newspaper, quoting from a U.S. banking source, added that the decision has aroused concern among creditor banks.

Reynaldo Ferreira, an official of the Brazilian Central Bank press office, told EFE that he knows nothing about this decision. Brazil has proposed to its creditor banks the renegotiation of its $108-billion foreign debt at interest rates below 1 percent and the granting of new credits.

BRIEFS

MACHINERY INDUSTRY GROWS -- According to report by Abimac [Interstate Machinery Industry Union], the national machinery industry, which grew 14.7 percent in 1986, has already sold most of what it will produce during the first semester of 1987. The machinery industry sector will invest about 14 million cruzados in its production. The sectors which grew most during 1986 were: printing and textile machinery, tools and farming equipment. [Text] [Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 24 Dec 86 PY]

FPMR ON TRAINING, ARSENALS, PINOCHET ATTACK

PY241301 Santiago HOY in Spanish 15-21 Dec 86 pp 15, 16

[By Antonio Martinez]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The heat in Santiago at mid-morning was suffocating. The day before -- 9 December -- the clandestine news conference summoned by the extremist group had not been held, and nobody gave any explanations. It was said that it was for security reasons. [passage omitted]

But 24 hours later the FPMR once again summoned the news conference, and from four different points of the capital the journalists started the long journey to meet in a back street in the high part of the city. [passage omitted]

Behind a table covered with a red table cloth sat two hooded "commanders" of the FPMR National Board -- "Jose Miguel" and "Daniel." A third hooded individual identified as "Pedro", who directed the Carrizal Bajo guerrilla school, and who had managed to flee when the school was discovered by the government's security forces, also entered the room.

There were several reasons for the news conference. On 14 November the movement had its third anniversary, and in addition to releasing a manifesto ("Forward Rodriguistas, forward Chileans, victory will be ours"), they published a booklet by Patricio Manns entitled: Notes About Patriot Manuel Rodriguez Erdoyza. However, the most important reason, as disclosed in HOY issue No. 490, was to claim responsibility, for at least part of the arsenals discovered in Carrizal Bajoa. The claim was made from the Santiago prison. Five individuals indicted by ad hoc Judge Lieutenant Colonel (J) Fernando Torres Silva disclosed, through the FPMR "commanders," a declaration admitting that the arms belonged to the extremist movement.

The brothers Claudio and Victor Molina Donoso, Sergio Buschmann Silva, Alfredo Malbrich Baltra, and Jose Abelardo Moya asserted that "we consider essential the organization of political-military cadres and the training of members of the front (...): the introduction of materiel into the area of operations is part of the political struggle expressed in the military strategy." According to those responsible for this declaration, the government "has organized the most absurd propaganda farce and has incredibly exaggerated the number of weapons found." They also reported that they have been subjected to "unimaginable forms of torture."

The news conference got underway by referring to the aforementioned declaration. After recognizing that the face in the pictures carried in the press was his, "Pedro" said: "We ran one guerrilla school in Caleta Correales and another in Huasco. We also had financial backing and legal fronts. The Chungungo Limitada company and an algae-gathering company facilitated the movement of personnel and the transportation of weapons on rafts."

According to "Pedro," the schools were created in 1985, and, through a rotational system, various training courses were held, such as target shooting. "We had a stock of arms which was indispensable for training," he said. He assured us that these arms "did not come from Cuba, nor did they come in fishing boats. We bought them on the international market to exercise our right to arm ourselves."

But the highlights of the news conference were commanders "Daniel" and "Jose Miguel," two hooded young men, with well-manicured hands. They said that the FPMR already has "15 martyrs." It has doubled the number of fighters it had last year, and it is very optimistic about the future.

[Question] Why do you now claim responsibility for the arsenal discovered at Carrizal Bajo?

"Daniel": We are claiming responsibility for the guerrilla schools and some arms caches because of the way the government is utilizing those discoveries. We accept responsibility for what we state here, but for nothing else.

"Jose Miguel": They were important guerrilla schools, and their discovery was an important loss for us. But we have gained some experience in this and we will continue to train more people.

[Question] Are those who were detained held in connection with the arms caches of the FPMR?

"Jose Miguel": Some were members, but others only participated in the cover-ups and knew nothing about what was being done, and still others are plainly innocent.

"Daniel": They have been subjected to what we call boot camp training. This includes torture exercises using animals and reptiles. With these methods, an individual is forced to accept anything.

[Question] And what about those who were arrested in connection with the attempt on Pinochet's life?

"Jose Miguel": We will give you this answer: Some of them are militants of our organization and participated in the attempt, but others do not belong to our organization.

[Question] Had the attack on Pinochet been successful, what would the FPMR have done?

"Daniel": What would we have done? We believe there would have been greater popular rejoicing. The attack, however, was not related to any larger FPMR plot.

"Jose Miguel": We are sure that the masses would have come out on the streets, that there would have been a great outpouring, and we would have been in the middle.

[Question] What would your attitude be toward a center-right transition government?

"Jose Miguel": We are united behind a specific objective. The reinstitution of democracy. This is why we take up arms. If we attain that objective, thus providing the people the opportunity to freely choose their destiny through participative and democratic elections, we will abide by the people's will.

"Daniel": But we want to make our position clear. The ouster of Pinochet is not enough. This is a far-reaching process. The FPMR will not go to Constitution Plaza the day after Pinochet's downfall to lay down its arms.

This should be made clear to everyone so that nobody will be deceived: We will do nothing to hinder the transition to democracy. However, the people who have known repression, who have gained experience must not act naively. What will the FPMR do? We will have to discuss this with the various factions within the FPMR.

[Question] What will happen when the Pope comes to Chile? Will you call for a truce?

"Daniel": We will do nothing to hinder the movements of the Pope. We will adopt an attitude consistent with the purpose of the visit, because we will not fall for provocations from the regime. But, of course, we want the Pope to learn of the people's demands, the country's true reality.

"Jose Miguel": Probably there will be a truce during that time. But if we call for a truce, what will the government do? Will it allow the exiles to return? Will it release the political prisoners?

[Question] Do you maintain any relations with the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left]?

"Jose Miguel": We do not maintain any special relations. Our relations with the MIR are similar to those we maintain with other organizations. Many groups and militias that respect our demonstrated military and political capability are behind us. The FPMR has gained influence through its struggle and correct leadership.

"Daniel": All the organizations that confront the regime with armed resistance will converge and there will be greater coordination among them: The popular militias close to the MIR, the Lautaro Youth, the Popular Brigades 5 April, and a number of autonomous militias.

[Question] It is difficult to believe that the FPMR does not have relations with other organizations...

"Jose Miguel": It may be difficult, but that is the truth. We are an autonomous politico-military organization. The mass mobilization, in which our fighters participate, is the way to put end to this regime. We are making an effort so that the people will develop the ability to arm themselves.

"Daniel": We do not consider ourselves to be the chosen people; nor do we believe we constitute the liberating army. We are just working to enable the people to rise up against the military regime.

DEL VALLE TO SIGN PEACE WITH POPE, ARGENTINA

PY300148 Santiago El MERCURIO in Spanish 28 Dec pp, A1, 12

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle yesterday confirmed that while in Uruguay in March, Pope John Paul II and the Chilean and Argentina foreign ministers will sign a document for peace in the Southern Cone.

The foreign minister said that the document will be signed on 31 March, the day the sovereign pontiff arrives from Montevideo. Del Valle will travel alone on that occasion meet with his Argentine counterpart, Dante Caputo. Del Valle pointed out that he is unaware if any other Latin American foreign ministers will attend the ceremony.

Del Valle explained that the invitation to attend this ceremony was issued by the Uruguayan Government and the Holy See. [passage omitted]

PATRIA CRITICIZES U.S. ENVOY'S REMARKS

PY291513 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 28 Dec 86 p 7

[Editorial: "Rash Declarations"]

[Text] This is an introduction to our editorial of tomorrow, Monday. If we give this introduction space on these columns it is because we consider important not only the subject but also its source.

It has to do with the declarations made by Phyllis Oakley, "the assistant spokesman for the U.S. Department of State," [title as published] according to our source. In his declarations, this U.S. Government official said that there are hordes -- groups that resemble "savage troops" -- in Paraguay that attack both private property and freedom of expression. At least he said that these "hordes" are not official. At any rate, judging by the facts, those who deserve that label seem to be less reproachable than those whose acts, such as the invasion of private land or the clandestine exploitation of natural resources on private properties, are justified by the church with the argument of being committed in a "state of necessity."

Phyllis Oakley goes so far as to hint at the existence of a general situation "designed" for the purpose of "suppressing the opposition" and denying "internationally accepted basic human rights, including the right of private property and the freedom of expression," as though some Paraguayan official agency or official had taken over or ransacked someone's private property. As far as we know, the government has not taken over any newspaper, radio, or television station so as to be blamed for such violations of private rights. Moreover, Oakley's verbal terrorism does not reflect the truth but rather reflects a falsehood by making a generalization and a blind attack, as though on behalf of an interested party.

In his attempt to blow a couple of cases out of proportion, he goes to the rash extreme of aggressively recommending "urging" the national authorities "to act energetically to protect basic human rights in Paraguay." This recommendation is addressed to the Paraguayan authorities precisely at a time when terrorist violence is spreading blood and death on the Andean mountains and human rights violations are terrifying in the Middle East. We refuse to believe that Oakley is unaware that the political situation in Paraguay is normal: It is ruled by a legitimate Constitution, with an Executive and a Legislative Branch legally elected in pluralist elections, and a Judicial Branch formed by respectable lawyers, well-qualified both morally and intellectually. We also refuse to believe that Oakley is unaware that there has been no dirty war in Paraguay, where terrorism has never set foot although it has tried that the Paraguayan people abhor the violence of the extremists of public tranquillity and order by denouncing the smallest suspicious movement wherever it appeared. There is no blood; slate to be cleaned here, no history of missing persons to be told in chapter and verse, as in other countries in the region, where a "full stop" had to be put on this matter in order to bring about a real reconciliation and coexistence.

All those abuses which broke down the institutions in important contries, deeply Christian and democratic countries, have barely scratched Paraguay. [paragraph continues]

Such abuses were fortunately avoided and, thus, despite difficulties and limitations, it has been possible to consolidate a democratic order which holds open a l its possibilities, because we do not have accumulated rancor and because the experience took place within the framework of the law. Within this framework everything is possible and such is the government's position, to keep paying attention to the people's generous character.

No kind of irresponsible behavior can be more dangerous, if you will excuse the term, than drawing from a couple of doubtful and highly debatable cases a picture that does not reflect at all the reality of the country or the status of "basic" human rights. If the issue in question is "sustained press censorship," then all we have to do is take a look at the four independent newspapers, the dozens of radio stations throughout the country, at opposition news media, at publishers and bookstores that sell hundreds of Paraguayan books written by men of different professions, different leanings and belonging to different parties. As to the rash supposition that an effort is being made to "gag the opposition," a label coined thousands of kilometers away and behind the backs of the country, it is tantamount to trampling all over facts that even the lowest employee of the U.S. diplomatic mission here knows because they have witnessed it even under their own roof on memorable occasions -- namely, that the irregular opposition is the one that has foresaken normalcy and does not want to return to it. To do this it will have to comply with the law in some cases, abide by their own party charter in other cases, and there is even one case -- that of the Febrerista Revolutionary Party -- in which all that is needed is to give up unproductive abstentionism and participate once again through party proposals and candidates at the elections.

However, the core of the matter in the light of what Oakley has said, we will leave for tomorrow's commentary because today is a day for resting and it is believed that people do not read on Sundays, they merely entertain themselves. We are not quite sure whether or not this is the case but let us say it may be so and leave things as they are until Monday.

JUDGE FREES LEADERS OF NURSES, MEDICAL STUDENTS

PY240006 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 23 Dec 86 p 56

[Text] Criminal Judge Mario Soto Estigarribia this morning ordered the release of Hector Lacognata, president of the Medical Students' Association and Elsa Mereles [president of the Hospital de Clinicas Nurses' Association] who had been charged with allegedly violating Law 209 (defense of public peace and individual freedom).

The judge has notified the appropriate penitentiary authorities and instructed them to carry out his orders. The police have charged both Lacognata and Mereles with inciting to seditious activities and offending the government and the president of the nation. In their testimonies, the two defendants flatly denied the charges stating that their activities are purely unionistic. In view of this, the judge decided to release the two persons ruling that at this point their actions do not constitute crimes.

LIMA MAYOR ON PRIME MINISTERSHIP, CUBAN ISSUES

PY241711 Lima Radioprogramas del Peru in Spanish 1330 GMT 22 Dec 86

[Interview with Lima city Mayor Alfonso Barrantes by reporter Humberto Martinez on the "Expanded News" program; time and place not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Martinez] There are rumors that you have been offered the post of prime minister within the next few months.

[Barrantes] Who has been offered that post?

[Martinez] You. They say that your relationship with the president is very good and that you will be offered the post as prime minister to make up for your possible defeat in the mayoral elections.

[Barrantes] Look here, I am not a person that can be rewarded. Fortunately I am a man of principles and do not practice an 'eye for an eye' policy. That is the policy of the traditional and manipulating right. I have never practiced, and never will practice, this policy. I am pleased that the president of the republic has said no to reelection so that calm may return to the country. The president should have voiced his support for the request made by the United Left and the PPC [Popular Christian Party] to annul the results of provincial elections in Lima and bring complete calm to our country.

[Martinez] What is the overall opinion in Cuba regarding the Peruvian progress, at least regarding our economic progress. Our relationship with Cuba has experienced a series of ups and downs during the recent past as a consequence of some misunderstanding it seems. What is the Cuban opinion of Peru?

[Barrantes] Cubans observe Peru with great attention and expectation. Proof of this is the visit made by Alva Castro and the renewal of this [fishing] agreement, which show the great fraternity with which the Cuban Government and people treat the Peruvian Government and people. This agreement represents a great investment for Cuba because for many months it has had to pay salaries to Cuban fishers and the fuel and maintenance of the fishing ships. Through the renewal of this agreement, Cuba shows that it is willing to continue its help because it contributes to feed the people. I do not think we could expect a greater gesture of fraternity. [passage omitted]

[Martinez] We have always respected your behavior as well as your ideas although we do not share them. Regarding your meetings with the president of the republic, that famous luncheon in a restaurant on the Colonial Avenue and some other meetings you have held with him, could you tell us whether the president has even mentioned the subject of results of municipal elections to you?

[Barrantes] Only briefly. What I want to point out is that I am a friend of the president. Quoting Socrates during a demonstration I said that I am a friend of Plato but I am a better friend of truth and because of this I uphold my principles. I believe that in politics, and in this regard we have matured, the fact that we may have different points of view does not mean that we are not friends. [passage omitted]

CORRESPONDENT LINKS 'PIA VESTA' WITH 'IRANGATE'

PA241644 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 24 Dec 86 p 1

[Text] Stockholm, December [dateline as published] -- ERSA [Renovacion Publishing Company, Inc] correspondent De Obaldia has learned that the weapons confiscated from the Pia Vesta vessel by Panamanian authorities some months ago were bought with money from the Irangate affair.

The Pia Vesta was hired by Saudi Arabian agents, and the weapons were bought for the "contras," according to what De Obaldia learned from shipping sources in Denmark, the place of origin of the shipowner.

The mysterious ship, which was captured by Panamanian authorities, was chartered by Saudi Arabian shipowners and the payment was ordered by Jeddah. Later on, there was an attempt to link the Peruvian Armed Forces with the load of weapons.

It was reported that the weapons were bought through a Swiss agent with money from the Irangate affair. The weapons were loaded in Rostock, GDR [as published].

LAW AMENDS CRIMINAL, JUDICIAL CODES ON DRUGS

PA290405 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 28 Dec 86 pp 1-a, 8-a

[Text] The law "by which several articles of the Criminal and Judicial Codes are amended and special measures are adopted with regard to drug-related crimes, prevention and rehabilitation" provides for stiff and heavy penalties with a clear technical-judicial approach and without disregarding the social issues involved.

On the subject of penalties, the law amends Article 255 of the Criminal Code, which now provides that anyone who introduces drugs into the national territory or takes drugs out of the country for drug trafficking purposes in other countries will be sentenced to from 8 to 15 years in jail.

The law also provides that anyone who, for illegal purposes, purchases, sells, or transfers drugs for any reason will be sentenced to 5 to 10 years in jail. In addition, anyone found in possession of drugs for illegal purposes will receive a prison sentence of 1 to 3 years and a fine of 50 to 250 days. [as published].

Still on the subject of penalties, the law provides that anyone who for unlawful purposes uses or devotes a place of business to the consumption, sale, or supply of drugs will be sentenced to 5 to 10 years in jail and the place of business will be definitely closed if it was mainly or exclusively devoted to such purpose.

Furthermore, it establishes an equal prison term for the owner, lessee, administrator, or tenant of a real state property or place of business who either uses it or allows it to be used by a third party with the knowledge that such party is using it or will use it for the unlawful manufacturing, storage, sale, cultivation, or abuse of drugs.

The law provides that public servants who take part in the destruction of drugs under this provision and attest to the amount, type, quality, or degree of purity of the destroyed drugs and make false representations or deny or abstain from telling the truth about the amount, type, quality, or degree of purity of the destroyed drugs will be deemed to have committed the crime of "false testimony."

Another important feature of the law is that anyone who, not having taken part in a drug-related crime, helps others conceal the benefits therefrom, thwart investigations by the authorities, escape the authorities' actions, or not serve a prison term will be sentenced to imprisonment of 2 to 8 years as an accessory.

On the subject of rules of procedure, the law on "drug traffic," as it is publicly known, provides that persons arrested for drug-related crimes cannot be released on bail. Nevertheless, bail will be granted to persons arrested for possession of drugs if they can prove that they were intended for personal use.

With regard to "extradition for drug-related crimes," it is established that the Republic of Panama will abide by public treaties to which it is a party and, in the absence of such treaties, may agree, in the case of drug-related crimes, upon request from other states, to turn over to them persons subject to criminal prosecution or [persons already] sentenced in the jurisdiction of those states for such crimes, under the terms of this present law.

This important piece of legislation updates the extradition process and describes in details the cases to which it does not apply.

The law that amends certain articles of the Criminal and Judicial Codes and adopts special measures concerning drug-related crimes, their prevention, and rehabilitation, involves the establishment of a Specialized Secretariat for Drug-Related Crimes [Secretaria Especializada en Delitos Relacionados con Drogas].

On this point, it stressed the creation, within the Attorney General's Office, of the Specialized Secretariat for Drug-Related Crimes to help the Attorney General's Office carry out its investigations on these crimes.

It also calls for the establishment of the National Commission for Study and Prevention of Drug-Related Crimes [Comision Nacional para el Estudio y la Prevencion de los Delitos Relacionados con Drogas], to which it thereafter refers as "the Commission," as a technical-administrative government office that will make studies on mechanisms for control of illegal activities connected with narcotics and the prevention of this type of behavior.

Included among its functions is that of reviewing the picture of drug-related crimes in the nation and recommending programs to prevent them. It must also work in coordination with the National Department of Investigations [DENI] of the National Defense Forces and with the Police Computer Center on Illicit Drugs [Centro Nacional de Informatica Political sobre Drogas Ilicitas], which will be coordinated by the Attorney General's Office.

The law also stresses the coordination with international organizations connected with the prevention of illegal drug-related activities and the joint work required to fight them as well as the coordination with the pertinent national authorities to establish an adequate control over the entry into the national territory of substances that can be used to manufacture illegal drugs.

The Police Computer Center on Illicit Drugs operates within DENI under the coordination of the Attorney General's Office. It will work jointly with the Commission and will perform the following functions:

-- Keep a record of all criminal cases opened in connection with drug-related crimes in our country.

-- Keep a record of all persons found to be involved in drug-related crimes in our country and furnish to the Attorney General's Office the information it requests from the center's records in connection with drug-related crimes.

The law provides that the Special Narcotics Force Against Trafficking [Fuerza Especial Antinarcotrafico] that operates within DENI will work in coordination with the Attorney General's Office [Ministerio Publico] in investigations on drug-related crimes. The Attorney General's Office will also coordinate the operations of this special force at borders, ports, and airports wth those of the General Customs Directorate [Direccion General de Aduanas] of the Finance Ministry so it may enjoy the support of the personnel and installations of that directorate.

Through the Attorney General's Office, the commission will submit a yearly report to the executive and judicial branches on its activities for the prevention and elimination of drug-related crimes.

The law says that the executive branch will take appropriate steps to establish rehabilitation centers to treat drug addicts and persons dependent on pharmaceuticals.

COSTA RICA

ARIAS VIEWS FOREIGN DEBT, U.S. ECONOMIC SUPPORT

PA291546 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Costa Rican President Oscar Arias has said that the increasing Costa Rican production depends on several factors including better conditions for refinancing the foreign debt, which is the first and most important factor.

President Arias optimistically said that 1987 will be a favorable year for the Costa Rican economy. He said that in the last trip that the group in charge of refinancing the foreign debt made to San Francisco, Costa Rica succeeded in getting the Bank of America to invest [invertir] and in making it an ally of our country within the creditor-bank committee.

According to President Arias, it is illogical to ask Costa Rica to diversify its production if it is not going to be able to export its products due to the obstacles raised by the United States.

Arias pointed out that there is a serious trade problem because the CACM is increasingly losing its importance, and despite the country's diversification and industrialization we can no longer depend on the CACM. Yet, the Caribbean Basin Initiative is not an option either, because there are problems like those the flower producers had to face recently.

President Arias hopes to sign an agreement with the IMF within the first half of 1987. Arias said that the country's economic success depends on the assistance that international organizations as well as European and Asian countries can give us. Arias thinks that Costa Rica should not depend solely on U.S. economic support.

Arias might travel to Europe sometime within the first half of 1987. Arias added that the objective of his European travel would be to obtain economic solidarity from other friendly governments. Arias, who did not say which European countries he would visit, said that he does not think that we should depend solely on U.S. economic support.

EL SALVADOR

GENERAL BLANDON DISCUSSES ARMY'S ROLE

PA300315 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 29 Dec 86 pp 9, 47

[Text] In an exclusive statement for EL DIARIO DE HOY, General Adolfo Blandon, chief of the Armed Forces joint general staff, today said that the Armed Forces' position is to respect and abide by the Constitution.

This was the high ranking military chief's answer to a question regarding the Armed Forces' position in face of the political, economic, and social situation experienced by the country and the statement made by Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] leader, who has asked the Army to define its position in face of the crisis created by Duarte's government.

Gen Blandon said that it is not up to the Army to describe an attitude as constitutional or unconstitutional. That is a matter to be handled by the Supreme Court of Justice.

"We reiterate our commitment to the people to respect what is established in the Constitution. This is our duty and we will enforce this respect when we find that it has become necessary," Gen Blandon said.

Blandon also said about the proposed exchange of so-called "political prisoners" for kidnapped Colonel Omar Napoleon Avalos, that the family of the kidnapped man is being kept informed of the situation and of the negotiations. Blandon added that the release of the kidnapped person is expected sometime this week or in early January. The military chief said that this will be possible if the kidnappers act with sincerity during the negotiations.

Even though Gen Blandon did not give the exact date for the exchange, it is said that it could occur on 7 January.

It is also said that the government is willing to release 52 terrorists who are serving a jail sentence in exchange for the colonel.

Gen Blandon said that 80 percent of the "United to Rebuild" plan has been completed and that had it not been for the 10 October earthquake, much more would have been done.

Blandon said that it is quite natural for those who oppose the plan to say that it has not been completed, but this is being said only by those who do not wish to see what was done.

The military chief reiterated that one of the main goals of the "United to Rebuild" plan is to help the areas destroyed by terrorism where the people have lost the services that are essential for development.

"We have proof that the plan was operational and that next year we will be more successful," Blandon said. Gen Blandon recalled that on Friday he met with the commanders of the military garrisons throughout the country and they reported on how the plan had been implemented and the way the people had accepted it.

Meanwhile, Blandon said that the Army has an operation underway which would also allow the deployment of troops from one area of the country to another if a terrorist attack should occur during these days. It has been said that the terrorists are planning a surprise attack on a military garrison before the end of the year.

"We must pay attention to these rumors. However, they do not worry us," Blandon stressed.

The chief of the joint general staff denied that there will be changes in the military high command in early January. Rumors regarding this are also being heard.

"I do not think," Gen Blandon said, "that there are any signs of changes in the Armed Forces high command. There may be a general order which will include active duty promotions, from generals down to sub-lieutenants, and routine changes at the executive level within some units. However, no changes are being considered within the Armed Forces high command."

Regarding the Army's views of the recent economic package, Blandon said that all he could say, as chief of the joint general staff, is that "I am aware of the need to provide for an Army of more than 50,000 men, however, how this will be done is matter for the government to handle. The important thing is that money is needed to continue with this campaign."

Gen Blandon mentioned the issue of the "war industry," as some sectors describe the current situation of the country, and said that a large amount of the government's income goes to the Armed Forces. "I do not know how this will be interpreted. However, I could add that the only thing that can help achieve a military advantage and keep the terrorists on the defensive and disbanded without the possibility of achieving a military advantage would be to maintain more than 70 percent of the military units on a permanent offensive. Heavy spending is necessary to do this; it is an investment," Gen Blandon said.

Blandon added that "taxes are not popular. To promote income will be a matter for the government and the political and economic sectors to handle. If this is unconstitutional, then it will be up to the Supreme Court of Justice to rule on the matter."

Regarding D'Aubuisson's call for the people to refrain from paying the taxes as decreed by the government, Blandon said that this must be analyzed by the Supreme Court of Justice. "It is not up to the Army to do this," he added.

"Maj D'Aubuisson is a member of an opposition party. Therefore, he has to be against any government measure," the high ranking military authority added.

FMLN RELEASES STATEMENT FROM KIDNAPPED COLONEL

PA211414 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0020 GMT 20 Dec 86

[Text] Attention, much attention YSKL listeners. The following is a recording received from the FMLN with statements by Colonel Omar Napoleon Avalos, who is in the hands of the guerrillas. The following is the recording:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] In October 1985, the FMLN captured Col Omar Napoleon Avalos whose rights, as a prisoner of war, have been respected. The Armed Forces, in open violation of human rights, have arrested FMLN wounded and disabled combatants who had been admitted for treatment at civilian hospitals. These combatants were evacuated from the fronts by the International Red Cross. The arrest of Lind and disabled people, or people who are receiving medical treatment, is a degrading action that prove to our people and the international community the moral quality of the government. The freedom of the disabled combatants cannot be subject to any kind of negotiation.

Through the mediator, the FMLN presented its official proposal for the release of Col Avalos. This proposal included a list with 54 names of members of the rank and file of several unions, union leaders, members of cooperatives and humanitarian organizations, and the names of 29 residents of Morazan Department who have arrested.

This list only includes the names of a very small number of political prisoners currently in prison. These people are not FMLN combatants. Just like the majority of the political prisoners who are currently in prison, these people were arrested without charges or because they demanded their rights which the current laws supposedly guarantee. No charges were made, proof presented, or trial held prior to the arrest or sentencing of these workers. However, they claim legal reasons and lack of proof to try Msgr Romero's assassin and those responsible for the massacres.

We continue waiting for the government's answer to our proposal. Radio Venceremos now offers a statement by Colonel Omar Napoleon Avalos:

[Second speaker] Today, Tuesday, 16 December 1986 -- it is a year and 51 days since I became a prisoner of the FMLN. My health is good; however, there are times when I cannot avoid becoming depressed because of my long captivity. The treatment I have received from my captors has been good.

Through the local media I learned that during some of our Armed Forces operations one of the goals has been to rescue me. I even learned that some companeros said that they had seen me. Regarding this I wish to say that I feel that it will be very difficult to carry out a successful rescue. I also feel that I am being endangered by such actions.

Meanwhile, the gentlemen of the FMLN have informed me that our Armed Forces arrested wounded and disabled members of the guerrillas who had been admitted to civilian hospitals and who were evacuated from the war fronts by the CICR [International Red Cross Committee]. According to what I have been told, these actions hinder the possibility of a favorable resolution of my case.

I was very pleased with the visits of Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas and International Red Cross Committee delegates. This built hope for me. I received the letters from my dear children and wife and the letters from my beloved mother. However, I have learned that -- I do not know if this was an order issued by the high command or by my friend, Colonel Vargas -- that my letters are being stopped and that the visits will not continue.

Once again I wish to use this opportunity to reaffirm my loyalty to our Armed Forces. I still have hopes that there will be a favorable resolution of my case. Christmas is drawing near and it is a good opportunity to appear to the feelings of the two parties so that agreements that will lead to my freedom will be reached. It seems that my freedom depends on the answer from the government and Armed Forces to a proposal requesting the release of non-combatants who are currently in prison.

After hearing the president's recent statements regarding my case, I got the bad feeling that there is not much interest or flexibility in reaching a prompt agreement regarding my freedom.

In the name of our friendship, I wish to remind you, Mr President, that you are also a father. You also had a daughter facing the same situation I am, and you know how much you suffered because of her. My family is also suffering because I am not with them.

In the case of Ines Guadalupe, it took 40 days to make all the necessary arrangements. You even released strategic FMLN people. In my case, I understand that the FMLN is asking for the release of non-combatants. They are asking for the release of union leaders, workers, and civilians.

I call on my brothers in arms and the president of the Republic to do what is necessary so that my family, which is suffering so much, can have me back home as soon as possible.

The FMLN gentlemen have also advised me that they are willing to allow my children, wife, and mother to visit me on the occasion of the new year. I am, hereby, asking the International Red Cross Committee to help make this visit possible. At the same time I ask the government to offer every facility for my family to visit me.

To my beloved children I send my blessing; to my wife and mother all my love and my hopes that we shall soon be together again.

El Salvador, 16 December 1986 [end recording]

This was the recording received from the FMLN with a statement by Colonel Omar Napoleon Avalos.

GUATEMALA

FOREIGN MINISTER ANNOUNCES TIES RENEWED WITH UK

PA291957 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1929 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Guatemala City, 29 Dec (REUTER) -- Guatemalan Foreign Minister Mario Quinonez Amezquita today officially announced the renewal of diplomatic relations with Great Britain after a break of more than 20 years.

Guatemala and London broke relations as a result of the dispute over the territory of Belize, to which Great Britain granted independence in September 1981 and which Guatemala does not recognize.

Official sources said that with the renewal of relations, which were broken on 24 July 1963, London will probably immediately request approval for its ambassador, while Guatemala must make the necessary budget allocations before deciding on who to appoint as its representative in Great Britain.

President Vinicio Cerezo and Julio Santos, his official spokesman, announced last week that the resumption of diplomatic relations with London was a fact "from this day."

The final announcement was made by the foreign minister, who said that a joint communique was issued in London and Guatemala City today.

The communique refers to Guatemala's request that London use its good offices to achieve an honorable solution to Guatemala's territorial claim.

HONDURAS

AZCONA VIEWS RELATIONS WITH NICARAGUA, BORDER

PA291504 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Report by Tomas Arturo Chi Medina from Radio San Pedro]

[Excerpts] Here is the news, using a link between Radio San Pedro of the Audio Video System, in San Pedro Sula, and Radio America, now more informative than ever before.

President Jose Azcona Hoyo said during a news conference in La Ceiba that he will respect the ruling of Attorney General Ruben Cepeda in the case of the sale and purchase of medical equipment for the Central Coyoles Hospital. He said this during a visit he conducted over the weekend in La Ceiba to be a witness at his nece's wedding. [passage omitted]

He confirmed that he will not remove any of his ministers from office because various work plans need to be complemented. He said that if there are any changes, these will come at the end of 1987.

President Jose Azcona Hoyo said that he fully agrees with the remarks that Armed Forces Chief General Humberto Regalado Hernandez made to THE NEW YORK TIMES to the effect that if the Sandinists attack Honduras again, like they did several weeks ago, the army will immediately respond to defend national sovereignty.

With regard to the purchase of sophisticated aircraft, which has been discussed over the past several months, the president said there is no obstacle in the way of or pressure in the decision on what kind of plane to purchase. That is up to the Honduran Army to decide in accordance with its national defense and security requirements. he explained that the purchase will be made with the military assistance the United States gives Honduras, which in 1986 totalled approximately $80 million.

Azcona questioned a remark reportedly made by National Congress President Carlos Orbin Montoya that a confrontation between Honduras and Nicaragua is imminent. I do not believe that. Upon reading the text of the item, I found that it did not exactly reflect what the headline stated. There has been a danger of war, but I do not think there is war between Nicaragua and Honduras. It is not in Nicaragua's best interest to fight a war against our country because we have a strong ally that is very near, while Nicaragua's ally is very far away. I do not believe Nicaragua will openly attack Honduras. Also, and we have said this many times, we have no interest in attacking that country. We do not want to count the dead, widows, orphans, and disabled that would result from an open conflict. That is why I rule out the possibility of war with Nicaragua.

If that regime consolidates its power Honduras will gear itself up to protect that border in such a way that no subversive groups and guerrillas will be able to enter here. That would be very dangerous. Above all, that border must be protected to inspire credibility and confidence and offer guarantees to investors. Unless they protect their borders as if with steel belts, countries that share borders with totalitarian states inspire no confidence in investors because they fear that that doctrine and its repercussions will spread to the country where they have investnemts.

Asked when the contras will leave Honduras, the president said that he believes that all the contras are over there, not in Honduras.

On Honduras' border surveillance efforts, he said that that is not an easy task. At least 16 battalions would be needed; our entire Army would have to be at the border, and many millions that we do not have would need to be spent in order to protect that border. [passage omitted]

AZCONA SEES NO CHANGES IN CABINET POSITIONS

PA241744 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Report by David Romero]

[Text] President Jose Azcona Hoyo has decided to continue working with all his ministers and assistants next year.

Radio America managed to confirm yesterday at the presidency with a source close to the president that he has decided not to remove any of the ministers or government advisers from their posts.

Several organized sectors have publicly advised the president to restructure the current cabinet. Some unions, such as the National Union of Peasants [UNC] have been threatened to pressure the government. UNC Secretary General Inocencio Peralta has publicly threatened to occupy government installations to pressure President Azcona into making cabinet changes.

Among the ministers who have been questioned by the labor and peasant organizations are Public Education Minister Elisa Valle de Martinez Pabeti; Juan Fernando Lopez, minister of communications, public works, and transportation; Economy and Commerce Minister Reginaldo Patin; and Public Health Minister Ruben Villeda Bermudez.

Jose Efrain Bu Giron, minister of finance and public credit, faces a similar situation. Followers of Carlos Orbin Montoya have requested his removal so that a member of their own faction can be appointed minister. They have recommended Mario Pineda.

Some directors of decentralized entities have also been mentioned, such as Mario Espinal, director of the National Agrarian Institute; the COHDEFOR [Honduran Corporation of Forest Development] manager [name not mentioned --]; and the CONSUPLANE [Higher Council of Economic Planning] executive secretary [Francisco Figueroa Ziniga].

The situation of Culture and Tourism Minister Arturo Rendon Pineda is unclear, as he recently made a public statement to the effect that he would submit his irrevocable resignation from that ministry to participate in political activities.

William Hall Rivera, the president's private secretary, is in a similar situation, as he currently heads one of the movements that is campaigning for the leadership of the Central Executive Council of the Liberal Party of Honduras.

It is clear however that the president has not received any irrevocable resignations from any of his colleagues. They can be at ease, because Radio America has confirmed that President Azcona will not remove any of his aides from one's post.

On several occasions, President Azcona has said that he will not accept any pressures from organized groups demanding changes of ministers or of other government officials. The president once said that it is not possible to remove ministers each time a sector demands a change, because we do not have a factory of ministers in Honduras.

The current ministers can therefore rest assured during the Christmas holidays, as no one will be removed from his post, President Azconz told several of his closest aides.

NICARAGUAN EMBASSY PUBLISHES ORTEGA LETTER

PA300033 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 27 December 86 p 3

[Letter from Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega to Honduran President Jose Azcona, dated in Managua on 25 December; issued on 26 December in the form of a paid press release by the Nicaraguan Embassy in Tegucigalpa]

[Text] His Excellency
Jose Azcona Hoyo
President of the Republic of Honduras
Tegucigalpa
Dear Mr President:

The most recent developments at the border zone between Honduras and Nicaragua, which were caused by armed attacks staged by mercenary groups from Honduran territory, demonstrate the urgent need to continue efforts to find a peaceful and just solution to this situation, a solution which will allow the restoration of peace and tranquillity at our common border.

Notwithstanding our knowledge of your remarks regarding Nicaragua's proposal to jointly request the establishment of a UN inspection commission, we also have knowledge of the growing rejection by the Honduran people of the presence and activities of the counterrevolution and of the statements by Honduran congressmen and other leading Honduran figures -- which were widely disseminated by the Honduran media -- on your government's efforts before the U.S. Government to have the mercenary groups abandon Honduran territory.

Nicaragua understands that there are no disagreements or conflicts between our countries and that the tensions that exist have their root in the illegal policy of intervention and force implemented by the Reagan administration against Nicaragua. Guided by this certainty, and as another demonstration of my government's desire to struggle for an effective and lasting solution to the exisiting tensions, I propose to you, dear Mr President, the following actions which my government is willing to undertake with the cooperation of the Honduran Government:

1. Nicaragua will welcome, with full legal guarantees, the Nicaraguan citizens involved in illegal activities who voluntarily opt to take advantage of the amnesty law, following the example of 6,000 Nicaraguans who have already taken shelter under the said law. After rejoining their families such people must engage in honest work.

2. In conjunction with Honduras, Nicaragua would make efforts with third countries which might eventually receive the Nicaraguan citizens who do not wish to take advantage of the amnesty law.

3. Cooperating with Honduras and UNHCR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees], Nicaragua would welcome, without restrictions of any kind, the Nicaraguan refugees who voluntarily wish to return and would provide for their transfer if the transfer is not covered by UNHCR. These refugees would enjoy the same guarantees in regard to their future life as are already being enjoyed by the over 10,300 repatriates already in Nicaragua.

My government feels that these measures will make it possible to ease the tensions at the border as well as the serious problem faced by Honduras as a result of the presence of the counterrevolutionary groups and the burden posed by the refugees. This would also solve the humanitarian problem of those involved in counterrevolutionary activities, giving them the opportunity to return to their country and to work for peace.

I am certain that the overwhelming majority of world nations would welcome such joint actions because of all benefits they would bring to our peoples and to Central America. The specific aspects of Nicaragua's proposal may be reviewed by our foreign ministers at an early date in December because of the urgent need to solve the situation at the border.

I am relaying Nicaragua's proposal to the member countries of the Contadora and Support Groups as well as to the UN secretary general, asking them for their cooperation in implementing it.

With the confidence that you will appreciate this new effort by Nicaragua because our foremost obligation as heads of state is to work for peace and the wellbeing of Hondurans and Nicaraguans, I send you a cordial greeting.

Fraternally,
Daniel Ortega
Tegucigalpa, C.D. [Central District], 26 December 1986.

NICARAGUA

CONTRAS ATTACK COOPERATIVE, KILL FIVE CIVILIANS

PA291324 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Report by Luis Cabrera]

[Text] At 0100 on Saturday, 27 December, counterrevolutionary groups attacked the Isidro Sotelo Cooperative in Cana Brava, located 3 km northwest of Villa Revolucion and 24 km northeast of Camoapa, Boaco Department, killing five civilians and wounding five others. Among those killed were two 13-year-old and 9-year-old boys.

The contras destroyed the fram, which was completely burnt.

The names of th civilians killed were Ernesto Escorcia Gonzalez, Luisa Urbina, Ventura Rodriguez, Abelardo Picado, 13, and Bertilda Fernandez, 9. Those wounded were Petrona Pilar Lopz, Gilda Lopez Valle, Juan Hurtado, Reina Picado, and Maria Apolonia Amador. In addition, a civilian by the name of Natividad Escorcia was kidnapped.

According to Defense Ministry reports, this criminal action by the contras occurred at 0100 on Saturday, 27 December, when mercenaries attacked the Isidro Sotelo Cooperative in Cana Brava, located 3 km northwest of Villa Revolucion and 24 km northeast of Camoapa, Boaco Department.

According to Defense Ministry sources, EPS troops are pursuing the counterrevolutionary groups that once again avoid clashes with the EPS and attack the civilian population.

CPDH CITES INCREASE IN HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

PA300341 Paris AFP in Spanish 0112 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Managua, 29 Dec. (AFP) -- The Nicaraguan Permanent Human Rights Commission (CPDH) today charged that cases of "torture, murder, disappearance, and political and religious persecution" increased in this Central American nation during 1986.

In a letter addressed to President Daniel Ortega, the CPDH, which is made up of opposition religious people and politicians, pointed out that a monthly average of 140 human rights violations, which mainly affected peasants in the countryside, were committed in 1986.

According to the charge, arrests carried out by state security (secret police) have intensified since October 1985 when the Sandinist Government broadened the state of emergency law, which had suspended individual guarantees.

The CPDH pointed out that peasants are held for months in state security jails before they are tried by Anti-Somozist People's Tribunals (TPA) "in which they are irrevocably condemned without any other evidence than their own 'confessions' obtained through psychological and physical torture."

In addition, that group denounced "systematic attacks against the Catholic Church," and recalled the expulsion from the country of two high-ranking prelates, the closure of Radio Catolica on 1 January 1986 and the closure of newspaper LA PRENSA in July.

The group also pointed out that such actions have also provoked the exodus of "hundreds of thousands of Nicaraguans to other countries" and the political polarization of the country's inhabitants.

In view of this situation, the CPDH asked President Ortega to immediately lift the national state of emergency, establish an amnesty for all those charged with political crimes, and abolish all special tribunals.

The CPDH also demanded the reopening of newspaper LA PRENSA and Radio Catolica as well as the return to the country of Monsignor Pablo Antonio Vega, vice president of the Episcopal Conference, and Monsignor Bismarck Carballo, spokesman of Managua's archepiscopal curia.

Finally, the CPDH asked the Sandinist Government to acknowledge the Inter-American Human Rights Court, whose convention was ratified by the revolutionary government in September 1979, as an entity with obliging authority [competencia obligatoria] and full legality.

INTERIOR MINISTRY INVESTIGATES FERRY ACCIDENT

FL291342 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] [Words indistinct] Information provided to our editorial staff on the accident between the two comet ferries [hidrodeslizadores cometas]. The event occurred at 1825, 15 miles from Batabano when Comet No Six struck the prow of Comet No Eight. Comet No Six carried 102 passengers and 7 crew members. Comet No Eight carried 7 crew members and 109 passengers.

The cause of the accident is being investigated by the Interior Ministry and the revolutionary navy.

We will continue reporting information on this event during Revista de la Manana [morning magazine].

Castro Reports on Accident

FL291508 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Two Comet ships [lanchas cometa], which run from Nueva Gerona to Batabano, crashed 15 miles from the coast of Surgidero causing the death of one person and injuring 54.

The deceased's name is Miguel Lopez Coban from Maisi, Guantanamo Province. He was 36 years old and worked at the Isle of Youth ECOI [Engineering Projects Construction Enterprise] No 4.

The injured, who have not yet been identified, have been hospitalized in different centers in the capital such as the Naval Hospital in Habana del Este and Pedro Voraz Children's Hospital in Plaza de la Revolucion.

The accident occurred when the prow of Comet No Six struck the stern [as heard] of Comet No Eight at a speed of 30 knots, which approximately equals 60 km per hour. Comet No Six carried 102 passengers and 7 crew members and Comet No Eight carried 109 passengers and 7 crew members. Currently, the Interior Ministry and the revolutionary Navy are investigating the cause of the accident.

During the night and this morning, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz stayed at the Surgidero dock in Batabano, expressed interest in the condition of the injured, and gave instructions so that all passengers could be given prompt attention. At the site, the commander in chief spoke to the press on some details of the accident.

[Castro] As I said, there are about, more or less 10-20, seriously [injured].

When the news was first announced, it was reported that two ships crashed. There was no information about any ship. There could be dozens of victims in a night collision. There could have been dozens of victims.

[Reporter] Commander, was the mobilization rapid?

[Castro] There were dozens of ambulances. Dozens of ambulances came.

[Reporter] And rescue [teams]?

[Castro] Yes. Yes, they came from Havana Province, Havana City. All the hospitals were prepared. They were prepared for a large disaster.

There was also concern about people drowning or disappearing at sea during the night, all those types of things, unfortunately. It was much less than expected and we hope that those rescued can be saved because they received rapid attention.

Everyone mobilized quickly. Batabano and [name indistinct] they sent help, doctors. They sent doctors. A doctor came with them from the hospital.

A few escaped when the first ship [words indistinct].

The injured were evacuated from there. Then they quickly rescued all the passengers except the two that remained trapped there. A team then departed from Isle of Youth on a rapid Comet to release those who were trapped in the bottom of the boat. I think that in the future they will be attended to quickly because, with the information we have, it took [words indistinct] minute.

[Reporter] Will the causes also be identified?

[Castro] To identify the causes, it must be investigated. [words indistinct]

[Reporter] Thank you.

USSR INVITES TU FEDERATION TO CONGRESS

FL262200 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] The board of the C-47 Trade Union Federation has been invited to attend the 80th congress of the trade union movement in the USSR by the end of February next year. The congress will make an evaluation of the past 5 years and will make an action program for the next 5 years. In his letter of invitation, the president of the union in the USSR expressed the hope that Chairman Fred Derby will participate personally. He said this will contribute to the realization of total cooperation between the union in Suriname and his country.

NEW REBEL ARMS CAUSE ARMY STATE OF ALERT

FL260025 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Yesterday the National Army was put on a state of alert in fear of the recent arms purchase by the members of the Brunswijk gang. The Surinamese News Agency has reported that half the weapons were bought in the Brazilian city of (Vilan) and are supposed to be on their way to Cayenne (?over) the mouth of the Maroni River on a Brazilian schooner. The purchase of the arms was made by wanted criminal Edgard Iancuso and former soldier Surinde Sumaru who paid with gold.

Yesterday the National Army announced that the population should reckon with the situation since it will use all its power available to crush any armed aggression from outside.

Yesterday, the three Surinamese pilots Van Amfont, Iles, and Adof arrived at the Sorhenhof airstrip on an (FLN) Twin Otter aircraft after being held in captivity for more than 2 months by members of the Brunswijk gang. The Surinamese consulate in Cayenne took care of the pilots until their return to Suriname. On arrival the three pilots were immediately questioned by the military police. They were unavailable for comments to the press.

FRENCH WARN BRUNSWIJK AS MINISTER VISITS

FL291957 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] On Saturday last it was announced here that French minister of foreign affairs made a quick visit to the camps in French Guiana on December 20th where approximately 5,000 evacuees from Suriname are staying. Minister Bernard Pons [name as heard] said that he would report to Prime Minister Chirac that the people are being taken care of in a satisfactory manner. Pons said that his country does not have plans for an invasion of Suriname. According to him, French Guiana is forbidden territory for terrorists.

Another source announced that Brunswijk was warned by the French that, if he was arrested by the French authorities, he would be sent to Suriname.